

Hello: I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed relaxing of media ownership regulations. By allowing corporations to buy increasing proportions of media markets, as well as to own greater segments of multiple media formats, consumers will suffer as a smaller range of opinions and programming is the likely outcome. Furthermore, rather than increasing consumer choice, consolidation can only streamline the quality of media available to the public. In order for democracy to flourish, it is necessary for multiple and diverse opinions to be expressed on public issues. Expanding media ownership concentration, by definition, is antithetical to the basic tenets of democracy. What the FCC should be considering instead is not how much more concentrated media ownership should be allowed to become, but rather, why is it assumed that public airwaves automatically were deemed to be in the realm of private industry in the first place? Listenership figures of National Public Radio can easily attest to the popularity of public input into media. Increased funding for and expanded proportions of public control of, media formats (especially radio, the internet, and radio) at local levels is the best way to ensure the maximum number of people can participate in public discourse. Please prevent our already deficient (in terms of quality and diversity) corporate-owned media outlets from eroding further.